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PENCE “WHEELS UP” FOR ISRAEL TODAY

Washington, Jan 8, 2004 - Washington, D.C.-Congressman Mike Pence, a member of the House International Relations Committee, will depart today for a mission to Israel with the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis.

Together with his wife Karen, Pence will be meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, members of the Israeli Cabinet as well as visiting military bases and the northern part of Israel. Pence serves on the Middle East and Central Asia Subcommittee as part of the House International Relations panel.

“I am honored to be the guest of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis as we visit an area of the world that has held such a deep meaning to myself and my faith,” said Pence. “I truly hope to gain a better understanding of the role I can play in helping achieve a lasting peace in that region of the world.”

The mission is co-chaired by Doug Rose, Indianapolis Chair of State of Israel Bonds and Carl Cohen, CEO of CIC Enterprises. Hart Hasten, chairman of Hasten Bancshares and community philanthropist is serving as honorary chair.

***MEDIA NOTE: Details will be released early next week regarding media availability with Congressman Pence after his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Sharon.

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